

**Runaway Hearts:**  
**Where Love Can Breathe**  
*A Historical Romance*  
By **Olivia Blair**

## Chapter One

January 25, 1851

Canadian Border

“I love you, Carolyn.” Josiah felt like a weight had finally lifted from his chest. He pulled her closer.

She could feel her face heat up. “I love you too, Josiah.”

He pressed his lips against hers gently. “We should head to town.”

She nodded, smiling at him. “Yeah.”

They stared at each other a moment longer before Josiah stepped back. He took her hand, guiding her to the road.

“Suppose we should finally talk about what we need to do to get settled here, Mister Carter.” She gently bumped against his shoulder.

His ears tinged red. “I suppose we should.” Josiah cleared his throat.

“We’ll need to find a place to live. For all of us to live together.” Heat rushed to her cheeks.

“Together?” He swallowed hard.

“Do you not want to live with me?” She shifted Isaiah against her chest. “We don’t have to if you don’t want to.”

“It’s not that.” He stopped, turning to her. “Carolyn, you’d have a better life without me.”

She stepped closer to him. “I thought I was clear where I stand.”

“I...if you ever regret this...please tell me.” He struggled to meet her gaze.

“Josiah, I am never going to regret you...or us.” She pulled his hand to her lips. “I understand your worry though. I will do that if you agree to do the same.”

His mouth opened then closed. He nodded once before bringing her hand to meet his lips.

“Now that that’s settled, we’ll need to find jobs.” She turned so they could continue walking. “It won’t be hard for you to find work.”

“You think?” He matched her pace, eyes still scanning the horizon.

“You’re good at everything you try, Josiah.” She smiled down at Isaiah. “Even making toys.”

“It was functional, nothing more.” He looked down at Isaiah in her arms. “Just glad he seemed to like it.”

“I’m not certain what I can do for work though. Suppose I might be able to find work sewing.” She looked at him.

“You could teach.” His hand tensed around hers as he spotted people over the horizon.

“I’m not certain I can do that well.” Carolyn noticed the people soon after Josiah did. She lifted their hands between them. “It’s alright if you’re not comfortable with people seeing us like this.”

“It is?” He furrowed his brow.

“We’ve been hiding for months, Josiah.” She chuckled slightly. “Truth be told, I’m not comfortable going near people like this.” She rubbed his hand with her thumb. “Feels like I’m puttin you at risk.”

He took a deep breath as he released her hand. “Then we try to act like we usually do.”

They walked into the small settlement side by side.